

A Useful Idiot on the “Right”: Glenn Beck, the US Chamber of Commerce and Jim Rogers

By Nevin Gussack

During this tumultuous Republican primary, the electorate is once again witnessing a clash between the nationalist-populist and corporate/libertarian wings of the GOP. This time, however, the nationalist-populist candidate Donald Trump is the front runner. He is gaining traction from a frustrated Republican base and independents on issues related to immigration, trade, and national security. Equally significant is the fact that Trump is self-financing. Whether one supports or opposes the candidacy of Trump, it is clear that the billionaire mogul represents a threat to the Washington-Wall Street consensus of free trade, globalization, and the importation of cheap labor. The allies of the free trade-globalist establishment went into full gear and launched sustained attacks against Trump.

One free trade “*libertarian*” commentator in the forefront of the anti-Trump caucus is Glenn Beck. While Beck represented an articulate commentator on issues related to the tyranny of collectivist dictatorships, the threats of radical Islam, and the network of leftwing groups, he also is an ideological libertarian who is committed to utopian ideals. Sadly, Beck is not above making inaccurate statements and engaging in sloppy research. In attacking Trump, Beck accused him of supporting “*progressive*” policies. Amazingly, Beck viewed the imposition of tariffs as a “*progressive*” policy. Beck inexplicably stated that “*a progressive believes in high tariffs.*”¹ According to the historical record, tariffs were supported by many of our Founding Fathers, such as George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson (after the War of 1812). The Republican Party supported high tariffs as a means of protecting our industries and laborers from unfair “*competition*” and as a tool to raise revenues. The progressive Democrat Woodrow Wilson lowered tariffs and imposed the income tax to make up the lost revenue stream. True, dyed-in-the-wool conservatives such as former Senators George Malone (R-NV), Jesse Helms (R-NC), Barry Goldwater (R-AZ), and Robert Taft (R-OH) all supported protective tariffs and opposed free trade globalism. Clearly, Trump’s support for tariffs on imported goods (especially from Red China and mercantilist Japan) is a continuation of the conservative tradition, not its antithesis. Hence, Beck and his research team are either grossly incompetent or intellectually dishonest in the area of trade policy and history.²

It is no secret that “*free market*” libertarians sought to move the Republican Party and the conservative movement in an anti-nationalist, globalist direction. Economists such as Milton Friedman are held in high esteem, while the protectionists were either vilified or ignored by the libertarian and pro-big business intellectual and political establishments within the GOP and the conservative movement. Beck identifies himself as part of this libertarian tradition, which functionally calls for the unlimited power of business in generating profits at all costs. A closer look at some of Beck’s positions and frequent guests bear close scrutiny. Such associations and frequent guests on GBTV/radio highlight the inconsistency of modern day “*conservatives*” in serving as torchbearers for the causes of national security and heightened American power. Most

¹ Griswold, Alex. “Glenn Beck: Donald Trump Is ‘Progressive,’ ‘He’s Not a Conservative’” June 17, 2015 Mediaite Accessed From: <http://www.mediaite.com/online/glenn-beck-donald-trump-is-a-progressive-hes-not-a-conservative/>

² Some good sources on the history of American trade policy include Eckes, Alfred E. Opening America’s Market (University of North Carolina Press 1995) and Gill, William J. Trade Wars Against America (Praeger Publishers 1990)

libertarians and modern “*conservatives*” are willfully ignorant or hostile to the notion that a nation cannot reconcile libertarian economics and a strong national defense. No successful nation has ever embarked on that path. If the United States maintained a libertarian economic policy during much of its history, then America would have been subjugated to the British Empire, communism, fascism, and National Socialism at a rapid pace. Quite simply, America would not have benefited from the innovation and manufacturing capability of a viable military-industrial base.

Despite Beck’s sincere anti-communism, the Texas-based radio host implicitly called for the toleration of dumping of subsidized goods from enemies such as communist China into the American market.³ This serves to enrich adversaries of the United States, while injuring valuable and even strategic industries such as steel and food (shellfish). Beck and his co-hosts complained that the imposition of tariffs on Chinese and German goods would result in retaliatory measures. Beck ignored the historical evidence where President Thomas Jefferson imposed tariffs after the War of 1812 to guarantee American economic independence. Facts are often lost on libertarians, especially on trade policy. Beck and his co-hosts complained that America no longer manufactures most of its core goods. However, libertarians and modern “*conservatives*” such as Beck claimed that free trade would actually boost American manufacturing. However, the opposite is true. Just examine the store shelves at Wal-Mart, Best Buy, and clothing outlets and one can conclude that free trade policies destroyed American manufacturing for decades.

In the face of sustained leftwing attacks during the election of 2010, Beck also defended the US Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber poured massive financial resources into “*Tea Party*” and “*conservative*” Republican candidates in the face of entrenched leftwing Democrats. However, a true nationalist-minded conservative and anti-totalitarian would have stood down from either siding with the Left or the US Chamber of Commerce. The US Chamber of Commerce is a globalist organization which represents the interests of multinational corporations. It also was a longstanding promoter of trade with the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, Cuba, Red China, and Putin’s Russia. This is covered in great detail in my book Sowing the Seeds of Our Destruction: Useful Idiots on the “Right.” The US Chamber of Commerce poured millions of dollars into the political campaigns of mostly corporate Republican candidates. It was no small wonder that the Soviet social science textbook Obshchestvo Vedeniye asserted in 1976 that the US Chamber of Commerce determines “*the political course of the United States.*”⁴ Fast forward to 2015 and it is clear that the US Chamber of Commerce has tremendous influence in the corporate-dominated Republican Party and the so-called “*New Democrats.*” After all, the US Chamber of Commerce lobbied fiercely for increased trade privileges for nations such as Red China, communist Vietnam, Cuba, and the Russian Federation under Vladimir Putin. Satellite organizations of the US Chamber of Commerce were just as vocal in promoting trade with enemies of the United States. For example, the US Chamber of Commerce and the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany opposed any restrictions on trade with the murderous National Socialists in the Third Reich. In late March 1933, the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany in Cologne telegraphed the US Chamber of Commerce “*that the boycott movement*

³ “The Glenn Beck Program Donald Trump in his own words 6/17/15” Accessed From: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufQdF3wBoOI>

⁴ Waterhouse, Benjamin C. Lobbying America (Princeton University Press 2013) page 46.

violates fundamental American interests.”⁵ The US Chamber also supported the outsourcing of American jobs. The US Chamber of Commerce even held seminars which instructed firms on how to outsource jobs to foreign nations, such as communist China.⁶ Chamber President Tom Donohue callously remarked that Americans need to “*stop whining. One job sent overseas, if it happens to be my job, is one too many. But the benefits of offshoring jobs outweighs the cost.*”⁷ Beck and the Chamber’s chief lobbyist Bruce Joesten poked fun at the concerns expressed by anti-globalists regarding the political activities of the US Chamber of Commerce.⁸ At the end of the day, Beck and his co-hosts believed that big business is morally superior to the Left. In fact, Beck launched a donation campaign to raise money to the already well-endowed US Chamber of Commerce. Beck personally gave \$10,000 to the Chamber. Remember, this is the same Chamber that supports trade with America’s enemies and the outsourcing of American jobs. Beck is the archetypal sycophant for globalist big business.

Beck also hosted billionaire expatriate investor and former George Soros business partner Jim Rogers to discuss the global economy and the rising power of Red China.⁹ Instead of interviewing known anti-communist China experts such as Bill Gertz, Steven Mosher, Harry Wu, Michael Pillsbury, Ross H. Munro, or Jon Halliday, Beck trotted out a pro-Beijing billionaire Jim Rogers. In light of Beck’s anti-communism and pro-American views, this is most curious. Rogers is a profiteer off of trading with America’s enemies. In his book Street Smarts, Rogers actually asserted that “*What you are looking at in China today is capitalism.*” Next, Rogers confuses social-democratic ideology with communism when he alleged: “*California is more communist than China. Massachusetts is more socialist than China.*”¹⁰ Rogers clearly ignored the presence and domination of massive state-owned enterprises, the cronyism of the “*Red Princes*,” and the forced technology transfers exacted on Western and American corporations. He was either unaware or willfully ignored how Deng and his comrades used American business to build up communist power very much in the manner of Lenin during the NEP period in the USSR. Deng himself stated in 1977 that “*In the international united front struggle the most important strategy is unification as well as struggle... Even though the American imperialists can be said to be number one nation in scientific and technical matters, she knows absolutely nothing in this area. In the future she will have no way of avoiding defeat by our hands... We belong to the Marxist Camp and can never be so thoughtless that we cannot distinguish friends from enemies... We must seize all opportunities to acquire things that we need under conditions set forth by us. What we need mainly is scientific and technical knowledge and*

⁵ Lohmann, Paulgerhard. The anti-Jewish racist mania of Hitler, the Jews in Fritzlar and its boroughs, and their few friends (Books on Demand 2014) page 336.

⁶ Fang, Lee. “‘US’ Chamber Of Commerce Hosts Seminars With Chinese Gov Officials To Teach American Firms How To Outsource” Thinkprogress October 19, 2010 Accessed From: <http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2010/10/19/124562/chamber-chinese-seminar/>

⁷ Konrad, Rachel. “Chamber of Commerce Leader Advocates Offshoring of Jobs” The Associated Press State & Local Wire June 30, 2004

⁸ Jefferson, T. “Obama Continues Attack on Chamber of Commerce” The Blaze October 14, 2010 Accessed From: <http://www.glennbeck.com/content/articles/article/198/46667/>

⁹ “Glenn Beck: Is China the new superpower? Accessed From: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJmqgZChTQ0> AND <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVOL3F9Iv6c>

¹⁰ Rogers, Jim. Street Smarts (Crown Publishing Group 2013) page 218.

equipment. This would contribute the most to our modernization plans.”¹¹ Fast forward to 2015 and Rogers unveils his character as the typical greedy useful idiot who seeks to profit from trade and investment with collectivist tyrannies. He asserted that the United States should invest in the militaristic communist state of North Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Despite Putin’s subversion and invasion of Ukraine, Rogers is also bullish on investing in the Putin-dominated Russian Federation where KGB thugs rule. Rogers even stated that North Korean communist dictator Kim Jong-un “*is making astonishing changes.*”¹² In light of these facts, one could reasonably call into question the judgment of Beck and his team of researchers when vetting guest experts for his TV and radio programs. Once again, why would a self-avowed patriot such as Beck interview a globalist-useful idiot financier who has a penchant for trading and investing with the enemies of the United States?

Once again, Beck falls into the familiar “*conservative*” and libertarian trap of worshipping the so-called “*job creators*” of the investor and multinational corporate elites. Conservatism was redefined away from nationalism and uncompromising anti-totalitarianism towards the utopianism of “*free markets*” and “*free trade.*” This unique situation caused many modern “*conservatives*” to denounce communist ideology while favoring economic cooperation with the Reds. In order to truly rescue the conservative movement and Republican Party from being swamped by the Left, activists and intellectuals need to rediscover nationalism and populism. With such a formula, conservatives could win the hearts and minds of ordinary Americans on economics and national defense and pulverize the Left in the polls. Libertarians such as Glenn Beck need to be called into account for their sloppy research and questionable associations with the appeasers of the enemies of America. Trump’s undiluted, brash nationalism is truly what Beck and other likeminded commentators and politicians are afraid of. Despite Trump’s many imperfections and issues, America is truly awakening as a result of his campaign!

¹¹ Teng Hsiao-ping Speech Behind the Scenes of Red China’s Foreign Policy The Chan Wang Publication Service September 30, 1978 pages 1-5.

¹² “Jim Rogers: I Would Buy North Korea If I Could” CNN Money Accessed From: <http://money.cnn.com/2015/05/04/investing/jim-rogers-north-korea-russia-china/>